

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Ecuador

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SUBJECT

Construction of Quito-Esmeraldas Road

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EVALUATE

1. Construction of a 186-mile road from Quito to Esmeraldas, primitive northern port and provincial capital 121 miles NW of Quito, is now being pushed by the republic.
2. When completed, the road will open 6,000 square miles of "world's best banana lands" and provide a port one full day nearer than Guayaquil to northern markets.
3. Ecuador's 500-mile coastline has but one developed port (Guayaquil), which is linked with the highway farming area by rail and highway. This is significant of land waste in a country of 3.3 million people where almost all occupy only fifteen percent of its area, while another potentially productive 40 percent lies unused.

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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